

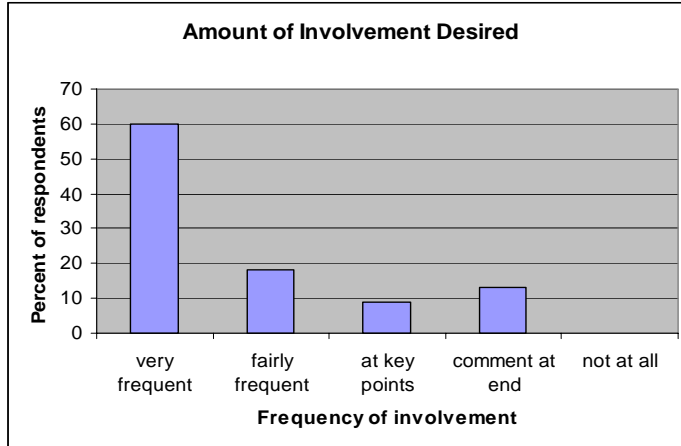
Results of the Public Participation Survey

Responses came from:

Non-profit groups	17
Municipalities	13
Individuals	5
Private business	2
Other	8
TOTAL	45

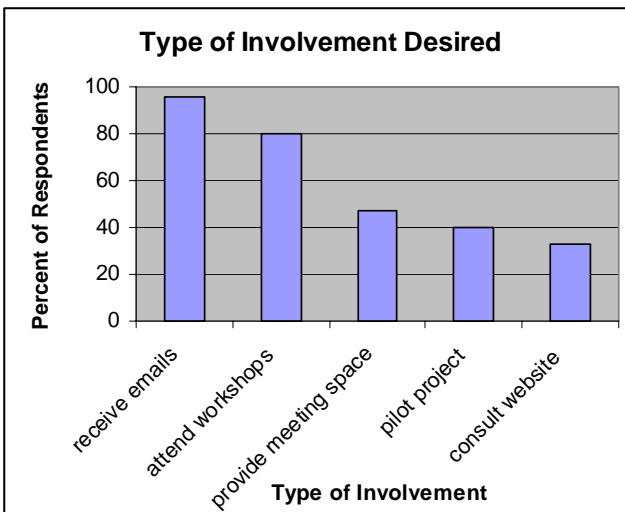
Background: A letter with a link to an on-line survey was sent to approximately 70 stakeholders and 145 municipal representatives. The purpose of the survey was to determine how respondents would like to be involved in the bay management study, and to gather input on how to create a meaningful public participation process. Key findings are highlighted below.

Question: With what frequency do you want to be involved in the bay management study?



Note: Most of the non-profit representatives and individuals said they wanted to be highly involved in the project, whereas private business and municipal respondents were less likely to want to be highly involved.

Question: In what ways would you like to be involved?



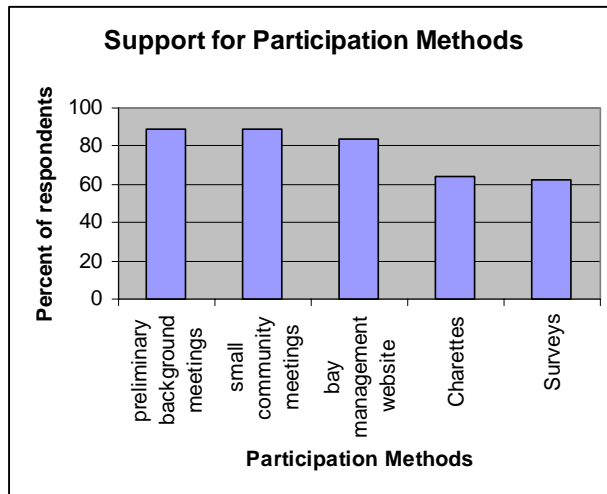
Since most respondents want to receive emails and go to workshops, it may be worth spending more time developing these components.

Note: Respondents wrote in other types of involvement that they would like. The written responses fell into two categories:

- High level discussions: be on steering committee or a bay management task force; discussions with staff and LWRC
- Research: Develop scientific guidelines; contribute research or policy papers

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Question: What methods should we use to ensure inclusive and meaningful participation?



Although at least 50% of respondents endorsed each of the methods, 84-89% supported the first three methods. Is it necessary to emphasize small community meetings more in our current plan?

Note: There were many written comments regarding ways to create a successful participation process. I have grouped responses as follows:

1. Actively consult with stakeholder groups
 - Involve stakeholder groups upfront, including participation on steering committee
 - Meet specifically with groups already engaged in some aspect of bay management
2. Truly listen to the public (set up process to do so, and come with mind set to listen)
 - Involve public in planning process so they will see how their input will impact decisions
 - Invite locals from specific bays to share their knowledge– they know the bay the best – and they can ask questions that lead to doing the most useful additional studies
 - Allow public to make a difference in the process and the results
3. Create a fair and trustworthy process
 - Hire a good facilitation team
 - Formally give all groups (including the general public) equal time to share their ideas
 - Establish operating principals and a purpose
 - Create a safe meeting space where all options can be brought to the table
 - Ask anyone who participates to agree to discuss/negotiate to find workable solutions to community problems; anyone not willing to talk or negotiate should not be part of process.
4. Disseminate information
 - Provide information before meetings
 - Have posters, printed materials and staff at meetings to answer questions
 - Include scientists in the process so their data is incorporated in discussions and materials
 - Provide participants timely feedback on the outcomes of their participation
 - Keep information going out to interested parties in a timely fashion (email communication)
 - Provide briefing reports in local papers or have regular columns that provide updates and inform people how to get involved

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5. Other

- Get people to participate! Let them know the ultimate goal, what they would get out of it, and why it is important. It will be important to be able to clearly describe what we are doing from the beginning. Provide interesting speakers, food and good meeting times.
- Set up a bay management task force
- Use a tiered approach: Have larger introductory meetings and surveys to provide information and details on how to participate further, and to gather feedback. These larger meetings will help us identify who would want to contribute more vigorously through small community meetings and charettes, where we will get our best results.

Question: Besides municipalities, tribal governments, environmental advocacy organizations, watershed groups, 'friends' groups and industry groups, who else should be involved?

Scientists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local experts • Marine scientists and Social scientists (including economists) • Educational institutions and non-academic research facilities
Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishing (Stonington Fisheries Alliance), aquaculture, lobster zone councils • Tourism (i.e., innkeepers, guides, whale watching) • Marine trades organizations • Marine contractors (Prock Marine of Rockland) • Shipping • MLA, DELA, NAMA, Cobscook Bay and Penobscot East Resource Centers • Local businesses
Local groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land trusts • Conservation commissions • Local historical groups • Landowners & the general public
Coastal users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishermen, clammers • Commercial and recreational boaters • Recreational users (sailing/boating clubs, kayakers, etc.)
Governmental organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide range of state agencies • RPCs • COG • ACOE • Water districts
National NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ocean Conservancy (Susan Farrady in Portland)
Experienced coastal managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives from other New England state coastal management programs or MA Oceans Commission • Other countries with experience in bay management (i.e., Scotland, Ireland)
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Churches • Identified polluters (including farms) • Film documentary crew (from a college) – inexpensive way to document process.